

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 03355 241036Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09

OES-07 TRSE-00 SS-15 /058 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2217

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3355

E.O. 111652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, YE, YS, ETRD

SUBJECT: ADEN PORT

REFERENCE: 76 SANA 4462

1. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO (SEE REFTEL) AHMED BDO SAID SET IN MOTION VARIETY OF ECONOMIC SCHEMES TO SERVE COMMON INTERESTS OF NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN. PLAN TO EXPAND USE OF IDLE ADEN PORT FOR OVERWHELMING TIDE OF SHIPMENTS TO YAR HAS CLEARLY WORKED. TO JUDGE BY RECENT DESCRIPTION GIVEN THIS EMBASSY BY UK EMBASSY IN ADEN.

2. BRITISH REPORT THAT AFTER YEARS OF VIRTUAL INACTIVITY DOCKS OF ADEN AND WAREHOUSES ARE "STUFFED FIT TO BURST" WITH EVERY INAGINABLE CARGO. ROUGHLY 70 PERCENT ARE DESTINED FOR YAR AND "LATERALLY HUNDREDS" OF HEAVY LORRIES STREAM BACK AND FORTH ACROSS BORDER WITH YAR.

3. THABIT BROTHERS, FIRM WHICH DOMINATED LIGHTER-ING AND CARGO HANDLING IN ADEN HARBOR DURING BRITISH DAYS, BUT LOST EVERYTHING IN NATIONALIZATIONS OF LATE SIXTIES, IS BACK IN BUSINESS IN PORT. THEIR BASE IS NOW
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HODEIDA BUT THEIR SANA OFFICE CHIEF, WHO RECENTLY TRAVELLED TO ADEN FOR FIRST TIME SINCE THE GOOD OLD DAYS, SAYS TRANSIT BUSINESS IS ROUTINE AND BOOMING. PDRY GETS PORT CHARGES, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ALLOWS TRANSIT TRADE TO GO UNTAXED.

COMMENT: OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THIS TRADE IS THAT IT PUTS

PREMIUM ON PDRY GOOD BEHAVIOR AS WELL AS SOLVES PRESSING
YAR PORT PROBLEM. PESSIMISTIC VIEW IS THAT IT REWARDS THE
WICKED RADICALS IN ADEN
AND ENTRAMMELS MODERATE SANA. SANA REGIME HAS MADE ITS
CHOICE. DESPITE LINKS OF SOUTH TO HAJRI ASSASSINATION,
YAR IS PUSHING AHEAD WITH JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS LIKE ADEN TRANSIT TRADE.
RANSOM

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